

**Law of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan  
On Public Associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Expanding on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, this Law secures the inalienable right and freedom of citizens to form public associations.

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**CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1. Definition of a Public Association**

Public associations are voluntary formations, arising as the result of the expression of the free will of citizens who have joined together for the cooperative realization of their rights, freedoms, and legal interests in the areas of politics, economics, public development, science, culture, ecology, and other aspects of life.

Public associations are accepted to include political parties, popular movements, trade unions, women's, youth, and children's organizations, organizations of veterans and the disabled, scientific, technical, cultural awareness, sport, and other voluntary societies, creative unions, fraternities, foundations, associations, and other citizen groups.

The authority of this Law does not extend to cooperatives and other organizations pursuing commercial objectives for profit with other enterprises and organizations, to religious organizations, to regional public self-government organizations (councils and committees of microregions, mahallas, apartment buildings, streets, blocks, towns, villages, etc.), and public self-activity organizations (folk brigades, citizen courts, and others) whose means of formation and activity are determined by other legislation.

**Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Public Associations**

Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan concerning public associations consists of this Law defining the basic legal status of public associations, the Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan On Public Associations, and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Article 3. Goals for Forming a Public Association**

Public associations are formed with the goal of realizing and defending civil, political, economic, public, and cultural rights and freedoms; developing the activeness and individual initiatives of citizens and citizen participation in the management of state and public affairs; satisfying professional and amateur interests; developing scientific, technical, and artistic creativity; protecting the health of the population, and the population's participation in charitable activity; carrying out cultural awareness, physical fitness, and athletic work; protecting nature and historical and cultural monuments; patriotic and humanistic education; expansion of inter-republican and international contacts and strengthening intercultural peace and friendship; and carrying out other activities not prohibited by law.

Not allowed is the formation of a public association whose activity is directed toward the destruction of society's ethical foundations or general humanistic values, or which has the goal of illegally changing the constitutional system or destroying the territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, or advocating war, violence, or cruelty, exacerbating public, including class and race, national, and religious animosities which lead to public disintegration, or carrying out other activities not permitted under law.

Not allowed is the formation of independent militia associations and armed formations, and likewise religious parties and their branches and structural subdivisions.

Public associations and their organs are not permitted to employ anti-democratic coercion on legal and democratically formed state agencies, departments, and authorized officials. Any attempt under the pretext of the democratic process to influence the lawfully functioning agencies of state power and its departments and officials is against the law.

In accordance with the law, the formation and activity of a public association that infringes upon the health and morality of the population and the rights and legally guaranteed interests of citizens will be prosecuted.

#### **Article 4. Principles of the Formation and Activity of Public Associations**

Public associations are formed and operate according to the principles of voluntarism, the equal rights of its members (participants), self-regulation, observance of the law, and openness [glasnost].

All public associations, in carrying out functions anticipated by their charters and other official documents, act within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Constitution of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and other laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The participation or non-participation of a citizen in the activity of a public association may not be a reason for the limitation of his or her rights and freedoms, or for presenting him or her with property, including official employment in a state organization, or be a reason for unfulfilled responsibilities required by law.

Legislation on employment, public welfare, and public security for workers applies to the employees of public associations.

#### **Article 5. The State and Public Associations**

The state ensures compliance with the rights and legal interests of public associations, and, in accordance with the Constitution, guarantees the conditions for carrying out the objectives outlined in their charters.

The state provides material and financial support to youth and children's organizations and provides for policies to extend tax privileges to them, and provides children's organizations with the right to use the physical spaces of schools, extracurricular institutions, clubs, palaces, houses of culture, and athletic and other structures free of charge or under privileged conditions.

The intercession of state agencies and officials into the activity of public associations, in equal measure as the intercession of public associations into the activity of state agencies and officials, is not permitted, except in cases when it is anticipated by a law.

The activity of organizations, political parties, and other public associations is carried out, usually, outside of the normal working hours of its members (participants) and at the expense of these associations.

Not permitted is state financing of political parties and popular public movements that pursue political objectives, with the exception of cases of financing election campaigns in accordance with legislation concerning the election of people's deputies and popular voting.

Questions concerning the interests of public associations in situations anticipated by legislation are decided by state organs and economic organizations with the participation or approval of the concerned public associations.

### **Article 6. Republican and Other Public Associations**

Republican public associations are associations whose activity and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the republic. In regard to this point, republican political parties and trade unions must have no less than three thousand members.

Local public associations are those that are regional, district, city, town, or village.

Regional and Tashkent City public associations are associations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the region, and in the city of Tashkent over the entire territory of the city.

District (city) public associations are associations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the district (city).

Town (city) public associations are associations whose activities and chartered goals are distributed over the entire territory of the town or village.

In necessary situations inter-regional and inter-district public associations may be formed.

### **Article 7. Unions of Public Associations**

Public associations have the right voluntarily to combine into unions of public associations.

Unions of public associations form, work, and terminate their activities in the manner described by the Law on Public Associations.

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## **CHAPTER 2. THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS AND THE TERMINATION OF THEIR ACTIVITY**

## **Article 8. The Formation of Public Associations**

Public associations are founded on the initiative of no less than ten citizens.

The founders of the public association call a founding convention (conference) or general meeting, in which a charter (a declaration or other founding document) is approved and governing organs are formed.

## **Article 9. Membership in Public Associations**

Members (participants) of public associations are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Except in the case of political parties, membership for foreign citizens or individuals without citizenship may be anticipated in the charter.

Members of political parties in the republic must be citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who have reached eighteen years of age.

A member of one political party may not simultaneously be a member of another political party.

Public associations, except political parties and trade unions, in certain situations anticipated by their charters, may accept collective members: worker's groups of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and citizen associations.

## **Article 10. The Charter of a Public Association**

The charter of a public association should contain:

1. name, goals, and objectives of the public association;
2. the structure of the public association and the territorial limits in which it carries out its work;
3. the conditions and method of membership in the public association and the means of leaving the association, in cases when the association has a fixed membership;
4. the rights and responsibilities of members (participants) of the public association;
5. the means and method of forming governing organs of the public association and their organization, authority, and tenure.
6. the sources of financing and forming of the budget and other property of the public association and its components;
7. the place where the governing organ of the public association is located;
8. the means by which amendments and additions can be made to the charter of the public association;
9. the means by which the activity of the public association can be terminated.

The charter may anticipate other situations having relevance to the work of the public association.

The charter of a public association may not contradict legislation in force.

### **Article 11. Registration of the Charter of a Public Association**

The charters of international public associations working in the Republic of Uzbekistan, republican and inter-regional public associations are registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan [from 3 August 1992].

The means by which the charter of a public association in the Republic of Karakalpakstan is registered is determined by the legislation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

The charters of public associations whose work covers a region, district, city, town, or village, or two or more districts, cities, towns, or villages, are registered by departments of justice, regional executive committees, or the Tashkent City Council of People's Deputies.

In order to register the charter of a public association, within one month from the day of the internal approval of the charter, an application is submitted, signed by the members of the association's governing body, with their full names, dates of birth, and places of residence clearly shown. The application is accompanied by the charter, the minutes of the founding convention (conference) or general meeting which accepted the charter, and other materials affirming the execution of articles 6 and 8 of this Law.

An application for registration is considered within two months from the date of its submission.

Changes and additions to the charter of a public association are subject to registration through the same procedure and in the same periods of time as the registration of the charter.

Agencies registering the charters of public associations keep a register of those associations.

A public association and its components (organs) carry out their activities only after registration of their charters, through the procedure prescribed by this Law and in accordance with civil legislation, and only then may be considered a legal person.

On the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, not permitted is the work of international public associations, their components, and affiliates, including popular movements and their subordinate structures, and republican and local public associations, including popular movements which have not registered their charters with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its local agencies.

For registering the charter of a public association, and subsequent amendments and additions to the charter, registration fees are levied through the procedure and in the amount determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

### **Article 12. Denial of Registration of a Public Association's Charter**

Registration of a public association's charter may be denied if the charter contradicts the conditions of Articles 3, 4, or 10 of this Law, or if a charter has already been registered for a public association of the same name.

In the case of denial of registration of the charter, the applicant is notified in writing, and the law which the charter contradicts is identified.

A denial of registration of a public association's charter may be appealed in court and is reviewed in the manner prescribed by the law of civil procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Charter registration denial of an international, republican, or inter-regional public association may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and charter registration denial of local public associations may be appealed in the appropriate regional or Tashkent City court.

### **Article 13. Symbols of Public Associations**

Public associations may have emblems, flags, and pennants for symbols.

The emblems of public associations are affirmed by the associations' governing organs in accordance with their charter. The emblems and pennants of public associations may not advocate the goals outlined in the second part of Article 3 of this Law.

Flags and pennants are subject to state registration in the prescribed legal manner.

### **Article 14. Termination of the Work of Public Associations**

The termination of the work of public associations may be carried out through reorganization (merger, joining, fraction) or liquidation.

The reorganization of a public association is carried out by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting. The charter of a newly reorganized public association is registered through the procedure prescribed in Article 11 of this Law.

The liquidation of a public association is carried out by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting or as the result of the reasons and through the procedure anticipated in Article 22 of this Law.

The property of the public association which is liquidated by decision of its convention (conference) or general meeting, is disbursed towards the goals outlined in its charter.

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## **CHAPTER 3. THE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Article 15. The Rights of Public Associations**

Public associations are equal before the law.

The rights of public associations are enforced by their charters.

In order to meet the goals and objectives outlined in their charters, programmatic documents, and other acts, public associations freely distribute information about their goals and activities. In the conditions and manner prescribed by legislation they:

- participate in the formation of agencies of state power and management;
- participate in the decision making process of agencies of state power and management;
- represent and defend the legal interests of their members (participants) in state and public agencies;
- exercise other authorities prescribed by this Law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, by the legislation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

#### **Article 16. Political Parties, Mass Popular Movements, and Trade Unions**

Parties expressing the political will of their members place as their primary objective participation in the formation of state power and management, and likewise participation in the activities of power structures through their representatives elected to councils of people's deputies.

Parties have programmatic documents published for general inspection.

Parties have the right to nominate candidates for people's deputies, conduct pre-election campaigns, and form groups of its supporting deputies in corresponding councils of people's deputies.

Mass popular movements pursue political and other goals and do not have a fixed membership.

Members of the military and persons employed in law enforcement agencies are governed in their work by the letter of the law and are not connected to the decisions of political parties and mass popular movements pursuing political objectives.

Trade unions, in cooperation with state agencies, economic organizations, cooperatives, and other public associations, represent and defend the interests of members of trade unions in the area of production, and in socio-economic and cultural issues in accordance with the current law on trade unions.

Political parties and trade unions have only fixed individual membership.

#### **Article 17. Production and Economic Activity of Public Associations**

Public associations, in the manner prescribed by law, carry out production and economic activity. They form, only for the goal of meeting chartered goals, enterprises and economic organizations having the rights of legal persons.

Income from the production and economic activity of public associations may not be distributed among members (participants) of these associations and is used only to meet chartered goals. Public associations may use their resources for charitable objectives, even if this activity is not anticipated in their charters.

Enterprises and organizations formed by public associations contribute funds to the budget through the procedure and in the amount established by law.

### **Article 18. The Property of Public Associations**

Public associations and their organizations may own buildings, structures, apartments, equipment, inventory, property of cultural awareness and health care significance, monetary resources, stocks, securities, and other property necessary for the material support of the activities anticipated in their charters. The property of public associations may also be publishing houses, other enterprises, and charitable enterprises formed from the resources of these associations in accordance with the goals outlined in their charters.

Legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, legislative acts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, may determine the types of property which in consideration of state and public security, or in accordance with international treaties, may not be the property of public associations.

The monetary resources of public associations form from entrance and membership fees, if these payments are anticipated in the charter, from voluntary contributions and donations, from funds from lectures, exhibitions, athletic and other events, and lotteries carried out in accordance with the charter, from income from production, economic, and publishing activities, and from other funds acquired legally.

Political parties and mass popular movements with political goals are not allowed to receive financial or any material assistance from religious organizations, or foreign state organizations and citizens. Any such funds are directed to the Ministry of Finances of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the state's use.

Political parties publish their budgets each year for general inspection.

The law protects the property of public associations.

The authority of unions and their constituent associations to possess, use, and dispose of property belonging to these unions and their constituent associations is determined by the charter of the union of public associations.

### **Article 19. Mass Media and Publishing Activity of Public Associations**

Public associations have the right to sponsor mass media and carry out publishing activity in accordance with current laws on the press and other mass media.

Political parties and popular movements pursuing political goals do not have the right to carry out publishing activity or maintain printing organs from resources contributed from religious organizations or foreign state, organizations, or citizens.

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#### **CHAPTER 4. MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS.** **RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSGRESSIONS OF LEGISLATION**

##### **Article 20. Monitoring and Supervising the Activities of Public Associations**

Financial agencies carry out monitoring of the sources of finances and income of public associations, the quantity of the contributions they receive, and their payment of taxes in accordance with tax legislation.

Procuracy agencies monitor the compliance of public associations with the law.

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its local agencies, having registered the charter of a public association, monitor the association's functioning in accordance with the goals outlined in its charter. The registering agency has the right to demand from the governing body of the public association an accounting of decisions taken, send its representatives to participate in the activities being carried out by the public association, and receive explanations from members of the public association and other citizens concerning questions related to compliance with the public association's charter.

##### **Article 21. The Basis of Liability**

Transgressions of the law concerning public associations incur criminal, administrative, material, and other liability in accordance with current legislation.

Liability for transgressions of legislation on public associations is carried by the guilty persons in state and public organs, and, likewise, citizens.

Public associations, including those whose charters are unregistered, in cases of transgression of the law concerning public associations, are liable in accordance with the law.

In the cases when public associations pursue activities that are outside the objectives and goals determined by their charter or that break the law, the governing body of the public association in question may receive a written warning from the agency which registered that association's charter or by the procurator's office.

##### **Article 22. Liquidation of a Public Association in Cases of Violations of the Charter or Law**

Public associations are liquidated by decision of a court in cases when the public association works in the ways described in the second, third, and fourth parts of Article 3 and in the fourth part of Article 18 of this Law.

A court may liquidate a public association in the case of a second offense in the course of one year of the type described by the fourth part of Article 21 of this Law.

The property of a public association liquidated by court decision may, without remuneration, become the property of the state.

Liquidation of an international public association and its departments and affiliates, and republican and inter-regional public associations can take place by decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the motion of the Procurator General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Chief State Tax Department, and also by motion of other agencies and officials authorized to do so by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan concerning the liquidation of a public association may not be appealed.

The liquidation of local public associations occurs accordingly in regional and Tashkent City courts. These decisions may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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**CHAPTER 5. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS.**  
**INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS**  
**INTERNATIONAL TREATIES**

**Article 23. International Communications of Public Associations**

Public associations, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan and their charters, may join international public (nongovernmental) associations, maintain direct international contacts and communications, and conclude corresponding agreements.

**Article 24. International Public Associations**

A public association formed in the Republic of Uzbekistan may be given international status if its work, anticipated by its charter, is to take place on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and at least one foreign state.

If a republican public association joins an international public association, formed in a foreign country, as a collective member, the former's charters are subject to registration in accord with this Law.

A public association expanding its activity into the territory of a foreign state presents the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with accordingly revised charters for re-registration.

Public associations whose goals are to strengthen peace, develop international cooperation, and other forms of humanitarian activity may use the privileges accorded them by legislation.

The work of affiliates (and other structural subdivisions) formed in Uzbekistan of public associations of foreign states is covered by the provisions of this Law.

### **Article 25. International Treaties**

If an international treaty of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes other rules than those contained in this Law, the rules of the international treaty take precedence.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov

Tashkent, February 15, 1991

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